

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

2: Essential Background

Most courses in Chemistry, especially those at the college/university level, assume that their students have had prior courses in general science, and often in physics, which provide them with an understanding of important concepts such as significant figures, units of measure, treatment measurement error, density and buoyancy. But if most of that has receded into the fuzzy past, the six sections of this unit will bring you up to speed. Neglect this stuff at your peril — it will come up in one way or another in any Chemistry course you take!

[2.1: Classification and Properties of Matter](#)

[2.2: Energy, Heat, and Temperature](#)

[2.3: The Measure of Matter](#)

[2.4: The Meaning of Measure](#)

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